

Recently, Dave has announced that he will continue his work for strong consumer protections by becoming Special Counsel to Attorney General Pam Bondi. As a special counsel, Dave will oversee the effort to eliminate pain clinics and "pill mills" in Florida.

I would like to congratulate Dave on his appointment in the Attorney General's office and wish him luck as he continues his dedication to public service and consumer advocacy. It has been a privilege working with him as an attorney, in the State legislature, and as a Congressman. I look forward to many years of continued service for South Florida alongside Dave.

IN HONOR OF NEW YORK CITY
COUNCILMAN DANIEL DROMM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, a pioneering figure in the political history of Queens, the most diverse county in the nation. An educator, community organizer, union leader, and political activist, Daniel Dromm's experience and dedication led voters in New York City's 25th City Council District to elect him by an overwhelming margin last year to serve as their new Council Member. Last month, Councilman Dromm was honored by the Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee at its annual Winterpride celebration in Astoria.

A graduate of St. Mary's Elementary and Boys' High School in Manhasset, NY and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, Daniel Dromm went on to earn a Master's Degree from City College of the City University of New York. Prior to his career as an award-winning New York City public school teacher, he served as Educational Director of the Grant Day Care Center in Harlem, where he developed his legendary organizing skills fighting for the rights of the poor to affordable childcare, social services and quality education. He instructed and inspired thousands of students at PS 199Q in Queens. In 2006, Dromm was named "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" by his school's principal and in 2009, he was chosen as "Educator of the Year" by the Sunnyside Kiwanis Club. In 1992, Danny courageously came out as an openly gay teacher, becoming a role model for equality—and front-page news in daily newspapers in our nation's greatest city.

Deeply committed to civil rights and social justice, Dromm has established himself a fighter against prejudice, discrimination and violence as the founder and former co-chairperson of the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Fifteen years ago, he organized the first Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival, that takes place every year on the first Sunday in June in the vibrant Jackson Heights neighborhood. Dromm co-founded the Queens Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), helped establish the Queens Pride House, and co-founded the Generation Q Youth Services Program in Astoria. His dedication to the communities he serves is broad and deep, inspiring his efforts on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Jackson Heights, his tenure on the Board of Directors

of the Corona-based Community Conciliation Network, his active membership in the 115th Precinct Community Council, and his volunteer duty with the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. He has been honored by the Sociedad Puertorriquena de Queens for his commitment to the Latino community, and serves as a member of the NAACP Corona/East Elmhurst chapter. He has been honored by the Korean-American Association of Central Queens, by the Times/Ledger newspapers with its Community Leadership Award, and by the United Federation of Teachers with its Marsh-Raimo Award, a fitting tribute to a dedicated labor activist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in honoring the extraordinary contributions to the political and civic life of our nation's greatest city made by the pioneering political activist and elected official, New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 5, the House Republican rules proposal for the 112th Congress. As some of my Democratic colleagues have argued before me, this rules package is fiscally irresponsible, will balloon the national debt, and threatens the stability of government services that are critically important to millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican proposed rules package sets our country down a path of unaffordable tax cuts and threatens to suppress long-term economic growth and job creation. While many of my new Republican colleagues were elected on the platform of reducing the deficit, the new rules introduced by the Republican leadership will significantly increase the national debt by changing the House pay-as-you-go rules, "PAYGO".

The Republican proposed House rules package adds to the deficit by exempting tax cuts and the deficit increasing effects of selectively repealing the health care reform law from the PAYGO rules. On the other hand, the Republican rules package prohibits the House from raising revenue or closing tax loopholes to help pay for new spending entitlements for low and middle income Americans.

Unlike the deficit neutral PAYGO rules that the 111th Congress operated under, the proposed rules package will allow for taxes to be cut without having to pay for them. But as the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform has pointed out, "tax expenditures are simply spending by another name and should not be exempt from scrutiny."

Substituting cut-as-you-go, "CUTGO", for PAYGO is bad economics and worse policy. As the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has noted, "Replacing the two-sided PAYGO rules with a one-sided CUTGO rule will not only make it harder to offset legislation, but also exempt potentially budget-busting tax cuts from any discipline." CUTGO is unwise, irresponsible, will result in economic stagnation, and substantially increase the debt burden on our children and grandchildren.

In addition to its fiscal irresponsibility, the proposed House rules package fails to address homeland security jurisdiction despite repeated calls for reform from the 9/11 Commission and every Secretary of Homeland Security. Failing to consolidate legislative jurisdiction over homeland security in the House Committee on Homeland Security will continue to complicate oversight and review of critical homeland security issues.

I also oppose the proposed rules package for the 112th Congress because it severs the user-financed basis of the Highway Trust Fund, and subjects necessary federal highway and transit investments to the vagaries of the annual appropriations process. This proposal will exacerbate the instability already being experienced by the U.S. transportation construction marketplace. Transportation projects are long-term in nature and require stable and predictable sources of funding. Subjecting them to the appropriations process creates a precarious and unaccommodating market for investments in infrastructure projects.

Finally, the Republican rules package disenfranchises residents of the District of Columbia and U.S. territories by ending the ability of delegates and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico to vote in, and preside over, the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union. This would deliver a terrible blow not only to the symbolic vote of the delegates, but also to the voices of the five million residents of these areas who deserve to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, this ill-considered and fiscally irresponsible rules package was crafted by the new Republican majority in secret without meaningful involvement or input from members on this side of the aisle. Had such an opportunity been afforded to the minority, this rules package would be far superior and fiscally sounder.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H. Res. 5.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA FIFE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Honorable Barbara Fife, Director of External Affairs at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College of the City University of New York, Co-Director of its Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government, and a distinguished public servant who served as a Deputy Mayor of the City of New York. Last month, Ms. Fife's sixteen years of devoted service to Baruch College were celebrated by her colleagues and friends.

An accomplished and respected public servant in her earlier career, Ms. Fife served as New York City's Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development during the administration of former Mayor David Dinkins. As Deputy Mayor, she oversaw and was responsible for the operations of several major agencies of the nation's largest municipal government, including the Departments of City Planning, Housing Preservation & Development, Environmental Protection, Parks & Recreation, and Cultural Affairs and Libraries, as well as the